

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
February 21, 2007
Conference Call

Members Present: Spencer Ellis, President
Jack Corson, Vice President
David Graham
Jim Mickelson
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture
Patrick Zimmerer
David Largent

Members Absent: Gene Hardy
Helen Jones
Lee Otto
Dalin Winters
Emily Horton
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

WDA Staff Present: Jason Fearneyhough, Deputy Director
Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Dani Sullivan

Issues

John reviewed the boards and commission appointments made by the Governor that are before the Senate for confirmation.

Dani updated the members on the bills the department has been watching.

Conservation District Appointment

Jack Corson made a motion to approve the appointment of Michele Barlow to replace Joseph Meyer who resigned in December to the Laramie Rivers Conservation District. Seconded by Dave Graham. All voted in favor.

Issues – cont.

Jack attended a Little Snake River Conservation District meeting where the district voted to hire someone to review all policy issues affecting the valley regarding oil and gas exploration.

Jim Mickelson is going to attend the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative meeting in Pinedale to find out more about it. Jason and Leanne Stevenson are traveling to those in the western portion of the state and told the members so far they are well attended. He also said that when the office is up and going, BLM will probably be the lead agency. Jim Mickelson said if the office is patterned after the JICO, it should be fine. John said we need to be active on a federal and state lever to ensure a place at the table. He also said he is working on funding and staffing the position for the department.

John recently attended a meeting of the National Association of State Department's of

Agriculture in Washington DC and updated the board on the '08 Farm Bill. He said because the '06 one was kind of rolled into the '07 Farm Bill, some of the allocation of individual programs is in question. These would include the department's meat inspection program and the mediation program. He also said there are several changes in the '08 Farm Bill which include the movement of commodity funding to the specialty crop side of the budget. He isn't sure where that will leave livestock producers in Wyoming because they don't fit in either category.

There being no additional business. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Corson, President

Date